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Official paper of Clatsop County and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

Western Oregon—Rain; cooler south portion; high southwest winds.
Western Washington—Rain; winds shifting to westerly becoming high.
Eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho—Rain; high southerly winds.

"WE TOLD YOU SO!"

The Morning Astorian has always held that Theodore Roosevelt would not allow the use of his name as a candidate for the Presidency in 1908, because it believed he was a man of his word, and now the final word has been spoken in the important relation and the Astorian's prediction made good.

The highest quality of a sound character is its reliability, its adherence to truth and faith under all circumstances, and the keeping of its word, especially when that word has been given broadcast to many people. Had Mr. Roosevelt yielded to the pressure that has been brought to bear on him in this connection, he would have weakened himself in the eyes of the nation; the people would know their first doubt of the man they have trusted implicitly; and what is more, he would have sacrificed his own sense of rectitude and cheapened himself consciously for all time. We are glad he has made the announcement confirming his original declaration, though it was not needed, and has simply been forced from him in deference to a very popular demand for re-consideration and reversal.

In the language of the Oregonian he will become an "observer," though it is more than likely he will cling very religiously to politics and Republican politics at that; he is not the sort to relinquish any great purpose or abandon cherished plans and remain quiescent because he is not to be in the center of things as they shall develop after his retirement. He has lived so long in the limelight and done so much and won so much, he is sure to be always ready to spring into any breach that invites his trained and ardent interest. Even as a private citizen Roosevelt will be an earnest advocate and champion of good government; and until he becomes just that, the country may rely absolutely upon his standing by his splendid program and working strenuously for the man, and men, who are to perpetuate it, whether it be Taft, or Hughes, or whosoever else the people may choose with the wisdom he has imparted.

THE RIGHT SPIRIT.

A ringing petition has been filed with the Common Council of the City of Astoria denying that anything approaching "hard times" prevails here; that it is essential that the Council cut this out of public consideration and go ahead with its projected and pending improvements lest the threat of "hard times" be made good, and urging that body to so administer civic affairs that the dismal idea may be negated entirely. This is alright and shows that Astoria, at least, is conscious of the good things she enjoys.

Facts and forebodings are widely different things. A person, or a people, may convince themselves of almost any condition if they will cherish the governing idea long enough and persistently enough, be it for good or ill. Reiteration, cheer, or doleful, is a keynote to which the ordinary public quickly attunes its humors; and since the choice of sound rests with the people, common-sense dictates the use of the happier and more resonant note. As long as the masses remain patient and animated and pass the jolly up to their representatives, there is a fair chance of recovering and

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Andrew Young

holding that which else might be lost.
You cannot down the man or community that won't admit it is downed!

CHRISTMAS, ALL THE SAME!

It may be that economy will characterize the expenditures of the coming holiday season in Astoria; that the usual generous limits that mark the choice and cost of gifts will be abated, and most people conform to the exactions of the "late, lamented" stringency; but the Christmas spirit will be there, all the same; the love and friendliness and good-will will be just as plain and spontaneous, even though its manifestations shall be a bit abridged; the legacy of gentle inspiration, the prompting to human fellowship, the expression of universal kindness, are rich with life and always ardent for the hour set for their operation. Christmas is Christmas, whatever the times may be, and nothing may obliterate or deny the festival and all that goes with it.

It is a supremely good thing that these days return to us with their lessons and duties; and it matters nothing that, once in a while, the hand is comparatively empty; the heart never yields an iota of its heritage of bounty and gives its little with the same old gladness that marked its richer expression. "Dammed be he" who would disparage Christmas because of tightened purse-strings!

THE COMMISSION FIRST.

President Roosevelt has named a special commission of three eminent and excellent men, Messrs. Murray, Knox and Neill, all department leaders at the national capital, to proceed to Goldfield and investigate the actual conditions of affairs there and report to him. This commission should have preceded the federal troops, since the rule governing most of Mr. Roosevelt's commissions in such cases has been that they go forth with more or less executive authority to compass the peaceful adjustment of the matters under investigation when that function proves available; and it may be that the present emissaries may be in time to so influence the situation as to bring about the contemporaneous departure of both federal groups without any more serious record than the formal and morally effective presence of both. The country is weary of these excitements and will be glad of a quiet issue from the Goldfield squabbles.

For that Dull Feeling After Eating.

I have used Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets for some time, and can testify that they have done me more good than any tablets I have ever used. My trouble was a heavy dull feeling after eating.—David Freeman, Kempt, Nova Scotia. These tablets strengthen the stomach and improve the digestion. They also regulate the liver and bowels. They are far superior to pills but cost no more. Get a free sample at Frank Hart the Leading Druggist, and see what a splendid medicine it is.

NO RIGHT TO TAKE MEASUREMENT.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—Justice Burr, of the Supreme Court of Kings County, decided yesterday that the police have no right to take photographs and measurements of a man under arrest but not convicted.

COFFEE

The goodness of everything else at breakfast depends on the coffee.

Your grocer returns your money if you don't like Schilling's Best; we pay him.

THE VERMIN IN THE DARK.

By Edwin Markham.

(Written for the Meeting of The Civic Forum, December 11, 1907.)

In storied Venice, down whose rippling streets
The stars go hurrying, and the white moon beats,
Stood the great Bell Tower, fronting sea and skies—
Fronting the ages, drawing all men's eyes;
Rooted like Teneriffe, aloft and proud,
Taunting the lightning, tearing the flying cloud.

It marked the hours for Venice: all men said
Time cannot reach to bow that lofty head;
Time that shall touch all else with ruin, must
Forbear to make this shaft confess its dust.
Yet all the while, in secret, without sound,
The fat worms gnawed 'he timbers underground.

The twisting worm whose epoch is an hour,
Caverned its way into the mighty tower;
And suddenly it shook, it swayed, it broke,
And fell in darkening thunder at one stroke.
The strong shaft, with an angel on the crown,
Fell ruining; a thousand years went down!

And so I fear, my country, not the hand
That shall hurl night and whirlwind on the land;
I fear not Titan Traitors, who shall rise
To stride like Broken shadows on our skies;
These we can face in open fight, with stand
With reddening rampart and the sworded hand.

I fear the vermin that shall undermine
Senate and citadel and school and shrine:
The Worm of Greed, the fatted Worm of Ease,
And all the crawling progeny of these—
The vermin that shall honeycomb the towers
And walls of state, in unsuspecting hours.

ART WORKS STOLEN.

Valuable Picture and Coins Taken From
Musée de Picardie.

AMIENS, France, Dec. 12.—Five of the most valuable pictures, the works of Fragonard, Boucher and Vanlee, have been stolen from the Musée de Picardie, together with a collection of coins and art objects, valued at about \$50,000. The thieves did the work so skillfully that the police are convinced that they are members of an international gang, which it is thought is responsible for the theft of Vandyke's masterpiece, "The Election of the Cross" from the Church of Notre Dame at Courtrai recently, and valuable enamels from the National Museum at Rouen.

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F. E. Getly, of Hammond, was in this city yesterday.

GRAFT--DEMOCRACY

Powerful Speech by District Attorney Langdon.

PUBLIC PRESS IS BEST ASSET

In the Moral Upbuilding of a Nation a Decent Press System is Essential to Carry Truth and Ideas from the Sources of Supply.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—William H. Langdon, district attorney for San Francisco, who with Heney has directed prosecution in municipal corruption in that city addressed Civic Forum last night upon "Struggle Between Graft and Democracy." He said among other things: "No moral issue can be supported by leaders alone. No cause can be trusted to just the talented few. Great principles must be independent of the coming and the going of particular men. They must become part and parcel of the mass, of the race, of the nation. Let the strong and devoted of earth go about their chivalric business of public service. They will make their own supporting public opinion as they go along, however they are misunderstood at first by common men. The majority of men are honest, and they will respond to every uplift in the long run.

The need is that the men who reform shall so conduct themselves as to be all that their cause is. The over-worship of the haub of personal reputation, the constant presence of overweening egotism, the personal prosecution of men in the impersonal prosecution of offenders, the lack of conservatism in tearing down the reputations of the once great, the maintenance of more secrecy in the public business than is required for efficiency—all these tend to alienate, as they rightly should, the public opinion upon which any great work must rest. The general character of a movement is as well revealed by its small acts as the general character of an individual. It can create public confidence or it can wreck it.

"The public press, next to the actual conduct of the prosecution itself, is the best asset in the establishment of a supporting public opinion. Against the penny-liner in the weekly press, and the petty correspondents of the outside press, too frequently purchased outright by the grafters, the daily press of San Francisco, giving information to the people twice a day, supported the graft prosecution loyally, and made it possible for the people and the leaders to work together. In the moral upbuilding of a nation a decent press system is an essential in carrying truth and ideas from the sources of supply to the remotest centers of distribution, as is a system of railroads in the industrial development of a country.

"But there is another need. Willing leaders and faithful public are fundamental, but the government work of today also requires expert service. No one man elected to public office can be expert enough these days to meet every task which comes within his domain. Particularly true is this at a time of crisis. The work of the modern public officer is mainly executive. He should know his duty, know how to get it done, and then see that it gets done. The notion that a man has betrayed his office into private hands because he has dared to seek and accept expert service other than those normally at his command, is a false notion, which must be banished if democracy is to be efficient.

"In the city of San Francisco we were confronted with some of the worst criminal conditions of the century. Behind those conditions were the shrewdest minds of the business world, the most unscrupulous manipulators in the field of politics and limitless wealth, which purchased the best legal talent of the nation, and a horde of private detectives and professional jury fixers. They went about the city spreading false reports and innuendo, prejudicing the minds of men. They refused to vote expense funds, and cut down the salary appropriations of the District Attorney's office. They shadowed the movements of each member of the prosecution's staff. They stalked into the courts of justice with their retinues of legal talent, and used every technicality to defy the law. They tried the prosecution, the judges, the juries, every one in fact but the criminal of the case in question. They tried to fix the juries. They poured money into the political campaign to defeat officers who were trying to enforce the law.

"But we were not faced down. We had stood up in the popular assemblies and pledged ourselves solemnly to the law. And we were resolved to stand by our

(Continued on Page 6.)

Holiday Greeting:

The happy CHRISTMAS time is fast approaching and I take great pleasure in inviting you to inspect my new and well selected line of Diamonds, Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Solid Silver and plated ware, Cut Glass, Umbrellas, and Gold and Silver novelties. I have the largest and finest stock this year to select from that I have ever shown in Astoria. PRICES are RIGHT; QUALITY UNSURPASSED. Come early and make your selections. I will lay them away until you want them.

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SWEET WINES

Old Port—Tawny, rich, light and color.
Old Sherry—Pale, clean, nutty.
Angelica—Soft, agreeable, full.
Muscatel—Very fruity, sweet.

WHITE WINES

Riesling—Medium light table wine.
Sauterne—Natural mellow, pronounced flavor.
Chateau Yquem—Full bodied Creme of Sauternes.

Sparkling Sec Dry—Fragrant, effervescent.

RED WINES

Zinfandel—Clean, light table wine.
Burgundy—Medium bodied, mellow.
Sparkling Burgundy—Brilliant, pleasant

Grape Juice, Maraschino cherries, fruit and Cognac Brandy, and a full line of Cordials.

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